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# THE GRAND STAND

VOL. I, NO. 4

PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE FOR THE  
PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

NOV/DEC 1977

## Handicapped and Gifted--Overlooked?

by Jean Gatling Farr, Field Assistant  
Gifted Programs, Room 560  
Bureau of Special and Compensatory  
Education  
Department of Education

Gifted young people, recognized by their exceptional intellectual, aesthetic, or creative abilities, come from all levels of society, from all races and national origins, and are equally distributed between the sexes; they also are found among the handicapped, impaired in their learning faculties--the deaf, the blind, the emotionally and mentally disturbed. By the very nature of their giftedness they require differentiated educational programs. This involves a duality of approach within the curriculum: one seeking to provide a route to normalcy with corrective measures and adjustment procedures, the other simultaneously challenging the precocious mental development and maturation.

Even though many of these children enter school with inadequate learning tactics, when proper intervention occurs, skills become manifest, particularly the broadening of language development. This increases the possibility that the child will be able to use his full intellectual capacities.

It is easy to label and stereotype a particular handicap or multi-handicap. Thus we promote a single kind of classroom instruction--a homogeneity of approach within the special classroom. Yet it is our responsibility to attempt to ascertain individual capacities and

abilities among our handicapped students and to develop appropriate individual educational programs.

The handicapped child is already functioning from a disadvantaged plateau, one which has interfered with his success in school, restricted the development of his intellectual and creative abilities, and prevented full development of his potential. Add to these auspicious learning barriers a high potential ability and imagine the degree of frustration and conflict he experiences!

### WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

1. We cannot afford to assume that the handicapped is permanently restrictive; by virtue of his giftedness, the handicapped youth has even more of an opportunity for adjustment and remediation of learning deficiencies.

2. We need to nominate and identify gifted youngsters within the ranks of the handicapped with the same insistence rendered to the general school population. The search for potential should occur in all groups.

3. Since the severely handicapped child usually needs a somewhat sheltered environment, special emphasis must be placed within his special education class upon meeting his unique educational needs as a gifted person. Approaches, strategies, tools and materials, and teacher understanding must be appropriate; often this necessitates

inservice education of special education staff in order to orient them to this particular exceptionality.

4. For those handicapped gifted students who can be placed into special classes for the gifted, such procedure is desirable as it provides a time for interaction with intellectual peer groups. This is recommended provided that the physical/emotional/social maturity is deemed suitable for such placement.

5. Curriculum focus should concentrate upon the following:

a) acceleration within basic subject areas once skill development has been initiated

b) enrichment geared to particular needs of the gifted, to include such areas as problem-solving, inquiry skills, research, creative thinking and productivity, and affective learning

c) career education

d) independent study

e) individualized learning

Pennsylvania to date has only identified approximately 1/3 of the mentally gifted students; of the 2/3 unidentified, a goodly number are undoubtedly among our handicapped population. Often when the impairment is severe, it is through intellectual attainments that life for the handicapped individual becomes a meaningful experience. Let us not be guilty of neglecting these potentially valuable young minds.

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# Disabled Assured of Involvement in State Compliance of Section 504



The Honorable Milton Berkes "charging" the PA State Departments of their responsibility to comply with the 504 Regulation of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

In September, 1973 Congress passed a law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of physical or mental handicap in every Federally assisted program or activity. That law is Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Section 504 states that "no otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States...shall, solely by reason of handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

April 28, 1977 Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Joseph A. Califano, Jr. issued a regulation pursuant to Section 504 "that will open a new world of equal opportunity for more than 35 million handicapped Americans...the blind, the deaf, persons confined to wheelchairs, the mentally ill or retarded, and those with other handicaps."

A long over-due regulation has now put the burden of responsibility on all public and private agencies receiving Federal funds in any way to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Recently, the Honorable Milton Berkes, Governor's Special Assistant on Human Services "charged" the State agencies to comply according to the timetable set up for Section 504 compliance. He stressed emphatically that each and every Department must comply with all points within the regulation, in particular with the point that states "all recipients of H.E.W. Funds must complete within one year a

self-evaluation process in consultation with handicapped individuals and organizations, to determine which of their policies and practices need to be changed to assure equal opportunity for handicapped Americans.

Mr. Berkes has called upon the "Conference on Handicapped Individuals, Inc." through its Chairman, Mr. Carl Odhner, to supply his office, upon request, names of individuals and organizations that could assist each department of State government receiving H.E.W. funds in meeting these requirements. Mr. Berkes has asked John H. Snyder, Governor's Advocate for the Physically Handicapped to be responsible, through Mr. Odhner, to assist the different departments within State government in securing these handicapped individuals as each department sets up its own Compliance Planning Committee.

Likewise, Mr. Berkes said he would be setting up a Review Committee in his office for the purpose of reviewing the State Departments' plans as they are developed and that there would be handicapped people involved on that statewide committee.

Mr. Snyder applauds the enthusiasm and concern that Mr. Berkes is demonstrating in bringing State government into compliance with Section 504 and is certain that this type of input from the Governor's Special Assistant on Human Services will expedite compliance.

Mr. Berkes accepted the responsibility of being the coordinator of the compliance to Section 504 and asked Mr.

Snyder if he would be willing to assist him in the coordination effort and share with the handicapped population the progress of the compliance and to assure the disabled population that we are trying to live up to the letter as well as the intent of the law as set forth by the Federal Government in the 504 regulation.

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## Congratulations...

to Mr. John Maquire, General Manager of the King of Prussia Plaza, for his swift action on making that shopping center's entrances much more accessible after receiving a letter from a concerned handicapped consumer. The efforts are continuing and will include "reachable" pay phones, accessible rest rooms, etc.

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## Rulings Give Handicapped Workers Back Pay

For the first time, handicapped workers are receiving back wages as a remedy for job discrimination, according to a release by the U.S. Labor Department.

Under provisions of Section 503 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, 59 workers have been awarded more than \$167,000 since the first settlement under the act was made in October 1975. Individual awards have ranged from \$231 to \$12,000.

Section 503 prohibits employers with federal government contracts from discriminating against qualified mentally and physically handicapped persons. These employers must also take affirmative action to hire and advance handicapped workers. "We want to make sure persons discriminated against because of handicap are returned to their rightful place in the work force," said Ward McCready, Director of the Veterans Handicapped Operations Division of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs.

The kinds of handicaps involved in the 59 cases include epilepsy, back injury, visual problems, hearing loss, emotional illness, diabetes, permanent leg injury, heart disorders, anemia, spinal defect, previous mental illness and others.

Complaints may be filed with: PA Regional Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Department of Labor, Gateway Building Room 15434, 3535 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

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# Community College Ready and Eager for Handicapped Students

Peter Moshein, Director  
Office of Special Services for Handicapped Students  
808 Ridge Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212



The Community College of Allegheny County operates four campuses with a combined day and evening division enrollment of 37,100. As early as 1972, CCAC began to express its concern for handicapped students by establishing concrete programs to provide equal access to them. Currently, over 400 physically handicapped students are enabled to attend CCAC because of the College's concerted effort to remove architectural barriers as well as a variety of special supportive services. In addition, some 200 mentally retarded persons have benefited by CCAC's special vocational training courses and continuing education classes.

New Federal and State regulations requiring equal access of educational programs to the handicapped and new awareness by the public of educational opportunities for handicapped people will, no doubt, increase dramatically the number of disabled students. CCAC is ready and eager for the influx.

By 1974 a full-time office to assist handicapped students had evolved on the Boyce Campus in Monroeville. The office provides student services, faculty workshops and staff training. At the present time Boyce has an excellent support program for deaf and hearing impaired students including note takers, interpreters and special developmental

English courses. A number of Boyce Campus staff, including several professors, are adept in sign language.

The South Campus in West Mifflin opened a learning assistance center in 1974 to offer individualized testing and instruction to students who have difficulty with academic work. The center has become very effective helping students with specific learning disabilities. As of the Spring of 1977, center staff were serving 30 disabled students among their caseload.

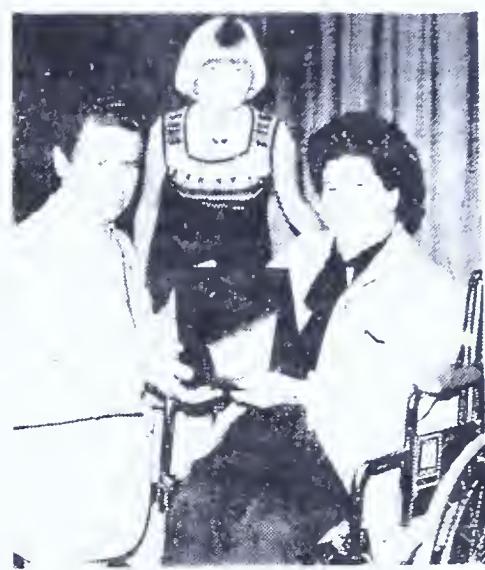
The Center North Campus spearheaded CCAC's programs for mentally retarded adults by implementing a vocational training program in food service. That program has graduated three classes with a highly successful record of job placement. A second training program in cleaning services has been proposed for January, 1978. In addition, College Center North has provided continuing education in classes to mentally retarded individuals since 1974. This is an expansion of the leisure learning adult education programs CCAC offers to more than 25,000 Allegheny County citizens annually with a special emphasis on the educational needs of mentally retarded persons for successful community living. Examples of such classes are leisure time activities, mobility and community orientation, current events, physical fitness, auto mechanics and homemaking skills.

In November, 1976, the CCAC central administration organized its efforts for the handicapped student population in the form of an Office of Special Services for Handicapped Students. The Office was established with the help of a grant from the Bureau of Vocational Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education. That Office coordinates services to handicapped students for all four campuses and delivers the services to students on the Allegheny Campus. This campus in Northside Pittsburgh has more visually handicapped students than the other campuses, due to its easy accessibility to public transportation. An emphasis on employability is present in all the counseling and services to handicapped students.

The Special Services Office has inventoried all four campuses for architectural barriers. The College has been active in becoming barrier-free and over a quarter of a million dollars has been allocated to date for barrier removal.

This is all just a beginning. CCAC intends to continue expanding its services to all students, including being more responsive to the on-going needs of handicapped students.

# 1977 Handicapped Pennsylvanian



It is possible that behind each handicapped individual lies an absorbing story of frustration, anxiety, determination, self-discovery, confidence and survival in the world designed for the able-bodied. It is impossible for each story to be known.

However, each year one such individual is singled out by the Governor's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped to receive the "Handicapped Pennsylvanian of the Year" Award. The 1977 presentation was made to Ms. Shirley Maher of Altoona at its Annual Conference held at Hershey Convention Center September 23, 1977.

Ms. Maher was stricken with polio at the age of 32. Two weeks later she gave birth to her sixth child which she proudly refers to as her "miracle baby". Today, this mother of eight and grandmother of 6 is considerably more active than many of her able-bodied peers. She currently works with the Blair County Community Action Program, is active in Barrier Busters-a consumer organization, and serves her community as a notary public. Her hobbies include collecting miniature glass animals and writing poetry.

Awards of this type bring different responses from different recipients. Ms. Maher believes strongly that good will come as a result of it because her life may well help to inspire another life. Her feelings could be summed-up in one of her poems written in 1962 shortly after her polio diagnosis:

*We all have our battles in life  
Some great, some small  
But wouldn't life be dull  
Without a battle at all.*

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# Music Therapy

## A Means of Self Expression

Peter Simpkins, RMT  
Music Therapist  
Woodhaven Center  
Philadelphia, PA 19154

The loneliness of the handicapped, institutionalized individual is not only the result of isolation from his family, friends, and community. It is also a symptom of lack of communication with other human beings in his environment. Consider the profoundly retarded person who does not understand that words are symbols of communication, the non-verbal autistic child who speaks to no one, the aphasic who says the unintended, or the schizophrenic who cannot find the words to explain his depression. How can these individuals express themselves in a way that will be understood? In attempting to establish an effective means of communication, we often expect handicapped individuals to first speak "or language" with "our meanings" before we listen and understand. This article deals with an alternative approach — the use of music as a means of communication and understanding.

Regardless of impairment, whether it be physical, social, or emotional, a commonality exists in all handicapped individuals — the need to express their feelings. Music, because it is non-verbal, provides the verbal individual with a poignant way of expressing feelings that are difficult to express in any other way,

and the non-verbal individual with a major outlet for expressing himself in a non-threatening way. Thus, music therapy has, as one of its most important goals, the development of the individual's self-expressive capacity. This goal is based on the premise that, given the opportunity, encouragement, and necessary tools, each individual, in his or her own way, is capable of expressing sound patterns that say something about themselves. It is also based on the premise that self-expression is the first step toward establishing contact with another human being and a basis for meaningful social interaction.

The conscious act of self-expression, however, can be a long and arduous process for the handicapped individual. The first step for the music therapist is to listen to, understand, and share in the individual's own personal language and meaning systems, as expressed in sound. The second step is to help the individual acquire the concepts and skills needed to maximize his potential for self-expression.

At Woodhaven, a residential treatment center, self-expression is a major concern of the music therapist and several types of music therapy programs are provided to meet the individual needs of the residents. In diagnostic music therapy, individuals are assessed to determine musical abilities and responses, to identify therapeutic needs, to provide information to other disciplines, and to

determine what types and levels of music therapy programs would be most appropriate. At the completion of diagnostic music therapy, the individual is seen in either private or small group sessions. These sessions are aimed at therapeutic objectives formulated by the music therapist and interdisciplinary team. These objectives cover a wide range of areas, depending upon the individual's particular needs. For some individuals the music therapist focuses on developing the perceptual skills needed to understand the world of sounds and speech. For others, it focuses on the development of motor skills needed for musical and non-musical forms of self-expression. It may also focus on increasing awareness of others necessary for social interaction or it may focus on the conceptualizing of ideas and feelings needed for effective self-expression. The joys and pleasures associated with being understood, both verbally and non-verbally, aid in the growth of self-esteem.

The value and impact of comprehensive music therapy programs are recognized by many types of facilities dealing with emotionally disturbed, learning disabled, criminal offenders, physically impaired, geriatric, and psychiatric patients offer comprehensive music therapy programs as well.

Music therapy is a young but growing profession. Over forty colleges and universities in this country presently offer bachelors or masters degrees that prepare students for registration or certification in the field.

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## Briefs

### IEP Workshops

A series of workshops for personnel concerned with the implementation of programming in conformance with Public Law 94-142 is being offered by Slippery Rock State College. The two-day workshops will be held once a month through April, 1978.

Although the procedures for implementing P.L. 94-142 are generic to all curricula, these workshops focus on motor development and the handicapped.

**October 28 & 29, 1977:** The Right of Education and P.L. 94-142.

**November 18 & 19:** Special Olympics and P.L. 94-142 the "free educational opportunity goal."

**December 2 & 3:** A Systems Approach to Leisure Education for the Handicapped

**February 10 & 11, 1978:** Evaluation of  
*Continued on page 5*



Woodhaven client apparently quite engrossed in the melody he is playing on a zither during a recent music therapy class. His intensity reflected an overall spirit of involvement which was present among the students during a therapy session.

*Continued from page 4*

the Implementation of the IEPs and the IHPs.

**April 21 & 22: Behavioral Management and the Individual Education Programs.**

Workshops begin at 1:00 P.M. and continue until 9:30 P.M. on the first day, and resume at 8:30 A.M. and continue to 4:20 P.M. on the second day. They may be taken for academic graduate credit from Slippery Rock State College or for a fee of \$16.50 on a noncredit basis.

*For further information contact:  
David Auxter, Slippery Rock State  
College, Slippery Rock, PA 16057.*

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## It's the Law...

The International Revenue Code now allows the taxpayer to deduct in any taxable year beginning after 12-31-76 and before 1-1-80, the costs of "qualified" architectural and transportation barrier removal expenses. "Qualified" costs are those incurred for removing barriers in any facility or public transportation vehicle, owned or leased for use in a trade or business, to make it more accessible to, or useable by, handicapped or elderly persons. It is important that all handicapped persons know about this law, but more importantly that they inform their community business establishments.

Further information about this new tax provision may be obtained by writing to the Legislation and Regulations Division, Office of the Chief Counsel, Internal Revenue Service, 1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20224.

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## Right to Belong...

Pennsylvania's Project CONNECT has produced a 28-minute documentary 16mm film, "The Right to Belong", dedicated to handicapped children, their parents and teachers.

How do parents react when they're told their child has a handicap? How do teachers and other professional persons work creatively to overcome the child's problems? What part do parents play in planning an education program and carrying out activities at home? How do children respond to programs designed to meet individual needs?

"The Right to Belong" answers these questions and tells a success story in the spontaneous words of the people who have lived these experiences. In humanistic terms, the film brings to life the ways Pennsylvanians carry out individualized education programs (IEPs) for handicapped children.

To arrange a free showing of "The

Right to Belong", contact CONNECT, 1-A North Progress Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109, (717) 783-3238.

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## Message from PSAD Secretary

*Frank Nemshick  
603 N. Blue Ribbon Ave.  
Harrisburg, PA 17112*

The Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf, through mail and personal contacts, conferences, and newsletters to state and local officials (particularly in vocational rehabilitation, education and employment security) continues to make agencies aware of communication problems of deaf clients and students. The need for employing full time interpreters and/or contracting out interpreter services to private agencies and registries of interpreters is critical. We are making deaf persons and parents aware of their rights to interpreters and we are cooperating with counseling services and local registries of interpreters in pressing for public funding.

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## Insurance Up-Date

Insurability and insurance rates rank high as concern priorities of the handicapped population. This is no surprise if we look at the improper incentives inbred into our insurance systems.

### LIFE-HEALTH POLICIES

One significant break-through in health insurance is a piece of legislation mandating conversion rights to dependent children upon reaching maturity. Act 185, passed July 19, 1976, guarantees conversion rights to said dependents on all policies issued on or after July 19, 1976.

The availability of in-hospital benefits to the exclusion of others creates cost increasing incentives for some doctors to provide unnecessary or questionable services, especially if third-party payors overemphasize hospital utilization. However, other services are becoming available as more and more health maintenance organizations (known as HMOs) are established. These organizations are currently operating throughout the Commonwealth, especially in the urban areas. This new-type group plan is generally broader based in coverage, often including physicians fees as well as hospital care.

Such group plans appear to be less stringent than conventional plans in accepting handicapped persons as policy holders, are principally sponsored by physicians, medical centers and private agencies and are aimed at preventive medicine.

According to the Department of Health these organizations are outstanding examples of innovative rearrangements of health care delivery and financing mechanisms into single organizations with effective cost controls, proper provider incentives, and quality care with subscriber accountability for treatment that is both necessary and beneficial to the patient (not an institution). The Division of Health Insurance Development creates conditions which are conducive to the growth and development of HMOs and also regulates them. You may find it worth your time to investigate the existence of such plans in your area.

### AUTOMOBILE POLICIES

According to the Insurance Commission Office, automobile insurance coverage is based on an individual not on a disability. No points are added under the Safe Driver Plan for a handicap. However, insurance companies are within their legal rights to refuse to write such a policy since Act 78 does not explicitly list "handicapping condition" as a basis for denial of discrimination. Act 78 states that no insurer shall cancel or refuse to write or renew a policy of automobile insurance solely because of age, sex, race, color, creed, residence, national origin, ancestry or lawful occupation. Therefore, companies do handle applications on an individual basis.

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## I Was a Prisoner...

"...the fact of the matter was that I was a prisoner, not because I was in a wheelchair, but because of the building...it was a 42 story tomb." So stated architect trainee, Andrew Gerardi, following his one day experience working from a wheelchair in January 1972.

During the intervening five years much research has been done by organizations of/for the handicapped and standards of accessibility for wheelchair bound persons have been identified and various pieces of legislation have been enacted. Has the information compiled or the laws passed been applied sufficiently so that the barriers to an accessible, independent life have been significantly reduced?

Some barriers are more obvious and  
*Continued on page 8*

**News from...**

# **The Governor's Conference on Handicapped Individuals**

## **Implementation Process Begins**

# **Task Force Orientation Workshop**

## **September 28**

### **GOALS**

The Implementation Committee of the Governor's Conference on Handicapped Individuals, members of its task forces, and representatives of state government agencies met on September 28, 1977 at the Holiday Inn Town, Harrisburg to begin the task of implementing the recommendations made at the Governor's Conference held December 1, 2, 3, 1976 at Hershey. The Implementation Committee is to be a bridge between the disabled consumers and the state government. The consumer recommendations made at Hershey identified or met needs and suggested ways to improve delivery and efficiency of existing services. The Implementation Committee is charged with the task of translating these recommendations into action.

### **ANITA KELLY ATTENDS**

Anita P. Kelly, Chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, joined the Workshop participants for lunch during a legislative recess. She expressed her interest in the Implementation Committee's work. She offered the services of her office to identify the content and status of current and pending legislation for the handicapped, and she offered to sponsor any bill developed by the Implementation Committee.

### **IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS**

John H. Snyder, The Governor's Advocate for the Physically Handicapped, William E. Graffius, Chairman, Eleanora C. Gordon, Co-Chairman, and Carl F. Odhner, Co-Director of the Governor's Conference on Handicapped Individuals discussed the evolution of the Governor's Conference and the Implementation process and introduced the Task Force Chairmen. Each Chairman gave a brief outline of his Task Force's projected activities.

### **EXECUTIVE BRANCH SUPPORT**

Francis X. Coyle, Director of the Governor's Office for Human Resources, pledged the support of the Executive Branch. He urged the Implementation



*Representative Anita P. Kelly, Chairman of the House of Representatives Health and Welfare Committee and Carl Dimarco, Administrative Assistant to Representative Kelly and Dr. Eleanora Gordon, Co-Chairman of the Implementation Committee share lunch together at the Orientation Workshop.*

Committee to act as quickly as possible to expedite recommendations that did not involve major legislative or organizational changes. He noted that many state agencies have current or planned programs involving services for the handicapped, and he promises to help set up a constructive working relationship between the Implementation Committee and the appropriate agencies.

### **MILTON BERKES IS KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

The Honorable Milton Berkes, the Governor's Special Assistant on Human Services, praised the development of an implementation process to follow the highly successful consumer oriented Governor's Conference. "The implementation of the Conference goals, suggestions and proposals" is "the most important ingredient in developing the future life style of handicapped persons". On behalf of Governor Shapp I congratulate you on your progress to date and offer the continued support of the Governor's Office as you implement your program.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF TASK FORCES**

The reports from the Regional Forums, the complete report and the summary of the Governor's Conference have been analysed by the Implementation Committee to develop objectives for action.

The Architectural Accessibility Task Force will begin by investigating the adequacy of existing regulations, the reasons for non-compliance, and necessary steps to implement compliance. This group is also charged with developing methods to ensure better training of architects in barrier free design.

The Deinstitutionalization and Community Living Arrangement Task Force has identified some major areas of concern. It is interested in ideal solutions, but its emphasis will be on the most practical way to get the job done.

The Task Force on Education is committed to bringing about an appropriate educational opportunity for all handicapped citizens in accordance with federal and state statutes. It asks the help of the Conference on Handicapped

Individuals, Inc. for the necessary support in developing community awareness and for political clout.

The Task Force on Employment seeks to bring about equal employment opportunity for the qualified handicapped individual in the job market. It will study the viewpoint of both the employer and the job applicant.

The Task Force on Health will try to develop a comprehensive health plan, will study how to develop dental services for the handicapped, and will make recommendations on how to improve the training of health professionals so that they can understand and act on the needs of their disabled patients.

The Social Service Task Force has identified two major responsibilities. It will develop an ideal service delivery system and make recommendations to adapt it to suit Pennsylvania, and it will produce plans for an information and referral system that will be comprehensive, current, computerized, and convenient.

The Transportation Task Force will develop means of improving mass transit facilities, will study mobility in rural areas and will attempt to coordinate existing resources. It will also work on insurance problems of handicapped drivers.

The three members-at-large have special areas of interest. Carl Odhner is the liaison between the Implementation Committee and the Conference on Handicapped Individuals, Inc; Dr. Marechal-Neil Young has identified recommendations which can be implemented immediately, and Mrs. Dorothy Moser will make sure that each recommendation from the Governor's Conference is evaluated by a task force.

A Task Force on Civil Rights, including voting rights and advocacy, is pending.

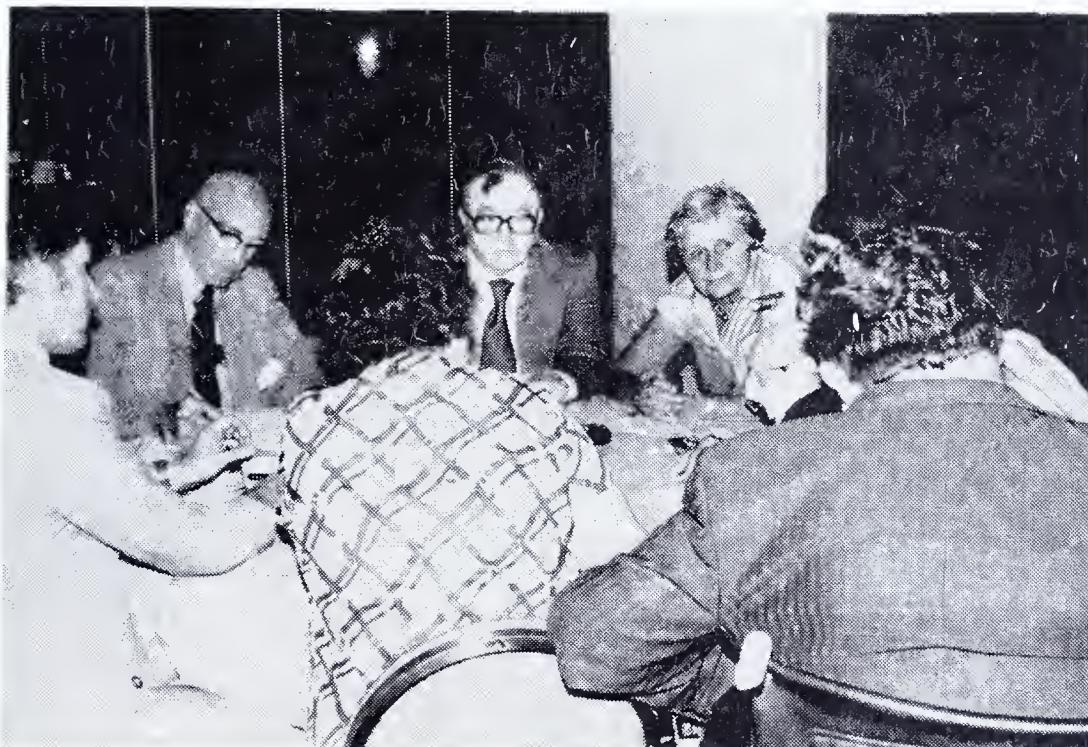
#### CONFERENCE ON HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS, INC.

The Conference on Handicapped Individuals, Inc. is a non-profit organization formed primarily to raise funds to meet certain expenses of the Governor's Conference not covered by state or federal allocations. Its charter is broad enough to allow it to change into a citizens' organization composed of individuals interested in the handicapped. It will serve as an advocacy group; it will monitor the activities of the Implementation Committee, and it will conduct future conferences. Carl Odhner, President, and Bonnie Gellman, Chairman of its Task Force on Organization and Structure, are analysing the results of a statewide survey. Formal organization on a statewide and regional basis will begin soon.

#### DELEGATE SUPPORT

The Implementation Committee looks to the participants in the Regional Forums and the Hershey Conference for support and guidance. Consumers are encouraged to communicate with the Task Force Chairman about subjects of mutual concern. Consumers have an open invitation to attend any meeting of a Task Force or of the Implementation Committee. Exact dates and locations of the Committee and Task Force meetings can be obtained from the Governor's Office for Human Resources. (717) 783-8348.

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Dr. John Bartram, Chairman of the Health Service and Professional Training Task Force meeting with other members of that Task Force to set into action the implementation process.

## Implementation Committee

- Chairman Wm. E. Gaffius, Director Penna. Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults  
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- Deinstitutionalization and Community Living  
David Halliwell, Exec. Dir.  
Sheltered Workshop of York County  
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- Education  
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Dept. of Special Ed.  
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- John H. Snyder, Governor's Advocate for the  
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more frequently considered than others, such as stairs, toilet facilities, mass transit systems, ramps with handrails, parking, employment, independent living facilities, etc. How much progress has been made regarding some of the less conspicuous barriers such as:

- emergency warning systems for blind people and deaf persons
- timing of traffic lights to permit adequate time for disabled and elderly to cross streets unthreatened
- signed public meetings, programs, events, etc.
- bold relief international symbols to indicate men's/women's restrooms
- braille TV guides, playbills, menus, etc.
- availability of public TTYs and accessibility of public telephones

Life is not such that man can count on being always mentally and physically fit each and every day of his life. He is subject to conditions that may come and go or come and stay, is there continuing evaluation and up-dating within your own facility or programs to consider if the maximum (not the average) needs of all handicaps are addressed?

Accessibility is more than just being able to "get into" a building!

## In Recognition:

### PARF

A resolution passed by the Board of the PA Association of Rehab Facilities states in part:

"Whereas Carl F. Odhner has faithfully served PARF since its inception in 1969 as a Board member, as Secretary 1972-75, as Vice President 1975-77..has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the rehab movement..has served as an inspiration to disabled persons as a leader in the advocacy movement;

Be it resolved that the Board gives notice of its appreciation for these services to Mr. Odhner."

*John Moore, Jr., President  
PARF  
Seven Springs, PA  
October 6, 1977*

### CEC

The 1977 Honor Award was presented to Mary Rose Ditz, retired from the Special Education Department of Edinboro State College, by the PA Federation Council for Exceptional Children.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**November 2-5, 1977**  
ARC Nat'l Conference  
Fairmont Hotel  
New Orleans, LA

**November 3-5, 1977**  
UCP State Annual Meeting  
Hotel Hershey  
Contact: UCP Office  
(717) 234-2981

**November 8, 1977**  
"Developmentally Disabled People in Competitive Business"  
A mini-course  
Woodhaven Center, Temple University  
Philadelphia, PA

**November 9-11, 1977**  
Easter Seal Society National Convention  
Stouffers Riverfront Towers  
St. Louis, MO  
Contact: Convention Registration, Natl Easter Seal Society  
2023 W. Ogden Avenue  
Chicago, ILL 60612

**November 14, 1977 - 10:00 a.m.**  
Implementation Committee  
PA Easter Seal Society  
Middletown, PA  
Contact: (717) 783-8348

**November 16, 1977**  
Education Program on Epilepsy  
Lackawanna Service Unit  
Contact: Mrs. Marion Robling  
(717) 961-2411

**November 16-17, 1977**  
Commonwealth Child Development Committee  
Host Inn, Harrisburg  
Contact: (717) 783-3489

**November 17, 1977 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Human Services Management Council  
Room 238  
Main Capital Bldg.,  
Harrisburg, PA  
Contact: (717) 783-3849

**November 18, 1977**  
MH/MR Advisory Council  
Room 306 Health & Welfare Bldg.  
Harrisburg, PA

**November 19, 1977 - 10:00-4:00**  
Statewide Health Coordinating Council  
Penn Harris Motor Lodge  
Harrisburg, PA

**November 23, 1977 - 10:00**  
Governor's Committee for the Physically Handicapped  
Room G-24 Wm Penn Museum  
Contact: (717) 783-8348

**November 29, 1977**  
"Alternatives to Behavior Modification"  
A mini-course  
Woodhaven Center, Temple University  
Philadelphia, PA

**December 1, 1977**  
Developmental Disabilities Planning Council  
Sheraton Harrisburg Inn

**December 7-9, 1977**  
National Society for the Prevention of Blindness Conference  
Roosevelt Hotel, New York, NY

**December 8, 1977**  
State Advisory Committee for the Blind  
Room 326  
Health & Welfare Building  
Harrisburg, PA

**December 8, 1977 - 1:00 p.m.**  
State Rights to Education Task Force  
Harrisburg, PA

**December 8-9, 1977**  
PA Assoc. of Child Care Administrators Annual Conference  
Host Inn, Harrisburg, PA  
Contact: Nevin Hollinger  
Berks County Preschool YMCA  
Reading, PA 19601 (215) 376-8181

**December 9, 1977**  
MH/MR Advisory Council  
Room 326  
Health & Welfare Bldg.  
Harrisburg, PA

**December 15, 1977 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Human Services Management Council  
Room 238  
Main Capital  
Harrisburg, PA  
Contact: (717) 783-8349

**December 21, 1977 - 10:00 a.m.**  
Governor's Committee for the Physically Handicapped  
Room G-24 Wm Penn Museum  
Harrisburg, PA  
Contact: (717) 783-8348

## Address Change Information

The Grand Stand - Planner is updating its mailing list. If changes should be made for you, your agency/organization or institution, please return the label of the old address along with the correction. Thank you for your cooperation!

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## Deadlines for Publications

The PLANNER, as the voice of the DD Council, is your newsletter. To be effective the Planner will endeavor to serve as a clearinghouse and forum of information for all of you who identify in so many diversified ways with the DD movement and the citizens it espouses. Your contributions, suggestions, criticisms, and ideas are eagerly solicited and always welcome. However, material MUST be in our office six full weeks prior to publication date.

Since we publish bi-monthly, this means that the following deadlines apply:

JAN-FEB '78 – No Further Copy

Accepted

MAR-APR '78 – Jan. 15, 1978

MAY-JUN '78 – Mar. 15, 1978

JULY-AUG '78 – May 15, 1978

SEPT-OCT '78 – July 15, 1978

NOV-DEC '78 – Sept. 15, 1978

Please address all communications for THE PLANNER to:

Margot Mor, Information Coordinator

THE PLANNER

Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities

Riverside Office Center

2101 N. Front Street, Bldg. # 4

Harrisburg, PA 17110

# "National Scout Jamboree Dramatizes the Challenges Facing the Disabled"

Many of the 20,000 scouts who participated in the 1977 National Boy Scout Jamboree, held August 3 to 9 at Moraine State Park near Butler, Pa. found out first hand what it feels like to be handicapped by blindness, deafness, crippling conditions and mental retardation by completing a trip through the "Handicapped Awareness Trail".

Dr. Jack C. Dinger, Professor of Special Education at Slippery Rock State College in Pennsylvania and past president of the National Council for Exceptional Children was appointed to spearhead this project. In addition to the blindfolded event in which the scouts were to compete for the fastest tent set-up time, Dr. Dinger and his committee have devised four other handicap awareness stations, which included an obstacle course where scouts attempted to maneuver around obstructions while in wheelchairs, an area devoted to attempt to communicate in deaf sign language or braille, a section for wheelchair basketball and slalom races, and an audio-visual tent where scouts viewed a film on scouting for boys with mental retardation. They also viewed exhibits of materials and equipment related to the education and rehabilitation of the disabled.

Dr. Dinger is currently field testing each of the trail programs at Slippery Rock State College with scouts of the local Moraine Trails Council of the B.S.A. "The kids are extremely enthusiastic about this challenging Trail," according to Jack Richmond, the Boy Scouts of America's National Director of Scouting for the Handicapped. "Judging from these early results it looks like we enlightened a sizable number of the jamboree participants", Richmond noted. Before leaving the Handicapped Awareness Trail the scouts were encouraged to organize similar awareness trails back home at their local councils thereby enabling many thousands of scouts throughout the nation to become aware of the frustrations and problems of daily living faced by the handicapped. It was hoped that this new understanding would produce greater respect for, and cooperation with disabled children and adults. The scouts could thereby demonstrate throughout the nation a great surge of increased acceptance and involvement of disabled children into the scouting movement. The boy Scouts of America is currently serving 55,000 disabled persons throughout the nation representing over 38,000 cub packs, scout troops and explorer posts.

## " Quotes "

### ON THE UNMET NEEDS OF PEOPLE (BIG AND LITTLE) WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

"... there is a dearth of psychological services for disabled people. Our ignorance of this fact, and our inaction, is unforgiveable! The irony is that aside from the common psychological problems that human beings must confront, disabled people are faced with unique psychological problems arising from dealing with and adjusting to a disability. The problems are myriad: the universal need for "private space" (the unseen boundary around our body which we do not want invaded by touch or look unless we give our tacit approval); the recurrent periods of self-pity that are born out of the conflicts that we, disabled individuals, experience as a result of what we want to do, what we are capable of doing, and what we are permitted to do; and the distorted self-image which arises out of the conflict between the way a disabled person internally views himself, and the way others perceive him and relate to him.

*Sondra Diamond, "The Unmet Psychological Needs of Persons with DD" in themes & issues, DD/TAS, Chapel Hill, N.C.*

"It's time for all of us to realize that these children with long term disabling conditions are also handicapped in areas other than their physical and/or mental condition. They are more socially isolated; they require more intensive and extensive treatment and outside services which, therefore, are more expensive, they will have fewer reinforced successes in adapting to developmental challenges in early years and therefore remain longer dependent upon others, they will have fewer opportunities for social/community participation and therefore are socially and politically more inarticulate.

*Michael Murphy, Pres. of Board., Western Pa. UCP, Spring Church, Pa.*

## The Grand Stand - Planner

A Joint Bi-Monthly Publication  
of the  
**Governor's Committee for the  
Physically Handicapped**  
Francis X. Coyle, Chr.  
George W. Severns, Jr.  
Publications, Chr.

and the

**Developmental Disabilities  
Planning Council**  
Mary Rita Hanley, Chr.

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE**  
The Honorable Milton J. Shapp  
Governor of Pennsylvania

John H. Snyder, Governor's Advocate  
for the Physically Handicapped

Lee Rubin, Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Developmental  
Disabilities Planning Council

# Roger Buchanan Named DDAN Executive Director

Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Network, Inc., has announced the appointment of Roger E. Buchanan as Executive Director. Buchanan brings to his new assignment a rich and appropriate background which includes most recently one year as Executive Director of the Montgomery County (Pa.) Association of Retarded Citizens, and prior to that eleven years as Special Assistant to the President for Program Development, and Director of Education, at Pittsburgh's Home for Crippled Children. His education has included an M. S. in Child Development and doctoral studies in Special Education Administration at the University of Pittsburgh. We welcome him and look forward to seeing the continuation and expansion of exemplary advocacy services in Pennsylvania.

DDAN is headquartered at 1607 City Towers, 301 Chestnut Street, Harrisburg 17101. Phone: (717) 238-0474.

## September Council Meeting and Orientation

The September 30 meeting of Developmental Disabilities Council was held at Tamiment in the Poconos, followed by a two-day orientation seminar presented by Temple University UAF (University Affiliated Facility). Council unanimously voted to accept the forty Designs for Implementation which accompany the DD State Plan for Fiscal Year 1978 and represent the final phase to be submitted to HEW. The Council also voted to accept the evaluation philosophy presented by Tom Derr, DD Staff Evaluator, and Dan Torisky, Implementation Review Committee Chairman, which embodies the strategy by which the Plan's effectiveness will be evaluated. Copies of the FY 1978 State Plan will be available in mid-November.

At the first orientation seminar, mounted by Temple University UAF, representatives of the 5 major consumer organizations and state agencies represented on the DD Council explored the philosophy, unique problems, and service delivery systems each presently employs to serve the developmentally disabled population addressed by their parent organizations. NOTE: complete coverage of the seminar will appear in the next issue.

## TRANSBUS Update

The sine qua non of all other legislation directed toward realization of equal rights for the handicapped is: TRANSPORTATION. Without access to transportation, it is impossible for people with disabilities to avail themselves of the services and opportunities now mandated by law in education, employment, housing, and recreation. If they can't get there from here, their segregation from activities and opportunities which the non-handicapped have always taken for granted is just as real as it ever has been.

Seventy percent of the population of the United States is dependent upon public transportation by bus (and still waits for an efficient mass transit system). There are an additional 13.3 million elderly and disabled persons who cannot use steps and are thus excluded from most buses, trams, and subways now in operation. Five times since 1970 Congress has directed the Urban Mass Transportation Administration to make urban mass transportation fully accessible to the mobile elderly and disabled.

UMTA had previously spent \$27 million to develop TRANSBUS, a low-floor bus with a ramp device, with the three major American bus manufacturers (GM, AM General and Rohr) and conducted extensive research to design, develop, test, and evaluate a low-floor bus.

Despite consistently acknowledging the superiority of TRANSBUS, UMTA designated a General Motors design (RTS

II) in the summer of 1976, but the implementation of this choice was effectively delayed due to litigation by the industry and by organizations of the handicapped and elderly.

### TRANSBUS STATISTICS

The UMTA reports, comparing the TRANSBUS to the current standard bus and to the RTS II showed the following benefits *inter alia* in favor of the TRANSBUS:

- boarding time is halved by the TRANSBUS
- trip-time is reduced 10%
- revenue miles-per driver's wage dollar is increased 5%
- the ride quality (noise, vibration, temperature) of the TRANSBUS approaches that of passenger cars
- passenger, traffic and pedestrian accidents, and insurance costs, will be substantially reduced - boarding/alighting accidents will be cut by 20%, onboard accidents by 35%, traffic accident costs by 25%, total insurance costs by 20%
- maintenance and repair costs remain constant on a unit basis
- ridership increases (exclusive of the elderly and handicapped) up 10%
- "improvement for the elderly will be significant only on the low-floor

TRANSBUS design"; "accessibility for the handicapped can only be achieved on a low-floor TRANSBUS at a reasonable additional cost and without introducing significant operational problems"

- increased handicapped ridership alone will reduce operation deficits by 4% to 10%.

Because of the long life of buses (12 years on the average) and because of the need to amortize the costs of a new design over a sufficient number of years, the decision on bus specifications will determine the shape of transit buses for a number of years, even decades. Federal financial assistance pays -- and has paid since 1964 -- 70% to 80% of the capital costs of a fleet of buses across the U. S. which numbers in excess of 50,000.

On July 27, 1976, UMTA and the Department of Transportation abandoned TRANSBUS even while reaffirming its technological feasibility and maximum accessibility and attempted to clear the way for production of GM's non-accessible RTS II during the last days of the Ford administration.

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## PILCOP Sues on Behalf of Consumers

The first accessibility suit to directly address UMTA and Department of Transportation officials seeking enforcement of their duty under Congressional mandates to proceed with the low-floor, ramped TRANSBUS was filed last summer in Eastern District of Pennsylvania by a national coalition of 12 organizations and 7 individuals represented by attorneys at the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia.

On May 19, 1977, Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams, directed that all buses delivered after 9/1979 must conform to the new TRANSBUS specifications. As a direct result of aggressive advocacy and lobbying on the part of United Cerebral Palsy Assn. of PA, SEPTA has recently agreed to order 190 TRANSBUSES as have other metropolitan transportation systems. The TRANSBUS assembly lines are tooled up for full production with delivery projected by early 1981.

NOTE: PILCOP has been funded through a grant by Developmental Disabilities Planning Council to pursue loss of advocacy through litigation on behalf of the developmentally disabled.

*Continued from page 12*

Intermediate Unit; Betty McCann, Director of Program and Planning, Pennsylvania Easter Seal Society; and Michelle Henry, Special Education Teacher in the Harrisburg City School District.

#### Educator's Point of View

Dr. Sherr stated that Pennsylvania is historically in the forefront of implementation of the P.L. 94-142 directives by virtue of adaptations already initiated following the landmark PARC Consent Decree of May 5, 1972, in which the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania conceded the right of all mentally-retarded children between the ages of six and twenty-one years of age to a free and appropriate education. He went on to say that the Individual Education Plan now required by law for each exceptional child is the one new element which educators must provide. In response to a telephone question, he described how the concepts of "least restrictive environment" and "mainstreaming" work in practice. The object of mainstreaming is to assure integration into the regular classroom milieu of trainable and educable children to as great a degree as possible- however not beyond the level appropriate to the child itself.

#### Parents of DD Students

The Boyers stressed the importance of realistic expectations on the part of parents, the right of parents to challenge the appropriateness of recommendations by educators and other professional consultants as well as the magnitude of their responsibilities as parents to fully accept their child's uniqueness, to be deeply involved in his or her development and progress, and to sustain a supportive attitude toward one's spouse, especially at times of crises and extreme stress faced by families whose members include exceptional children which, in Mrs. Boyer's words, "could tear a marriage apart."

#### Handicapped Lib

Betty McCann identified one of the major handicaps confronting handicapped children and adults as community apathy or lack of understanding. "However," she said, "the combination of 94-142 and 504\* creates an entirely new climate...the full impact of these two pieces of legislation is that discrimination of any kind against people with handicaps will be entirely eliminated from the next ballgame. And rest assured we will be watching to make certain the ground rules are followed!"

\*NOTE: Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 states: "No

otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States...shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." In April 1977, a final Section 504 regulation was issued for all recipients of funds from HEW, including elementary and secondary schools, colleges, hospitals, social service agencies, and in some instances doctors.

This regulation was signed by HEW Secretary Joseph A. Califano, Jr., on April 28, 1977, following a sit-in demonstration in HEW Headquarters by a coalition of handicapped individuals.

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## Creative Growth

In September, Creative Growth, an art exhibit containing 50 works by developmentally disabled people, was exhibited by the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

The Creative Growth Program of Oakland, California, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the idea that all people, regardless of the severity of their handicaps, can gain strength, enjoyment and fulfillment through experiences in the visual arts. It supplies a supportive learning environment and program which enables the handicapped to experience change and creative potential through the use of art therapy.

#### COMMUNITY COALITION

The Philadelphia Museum Creative Growth exhibit was a joint venture of

## Phila. ARC Seminars

Philadelphia Association for Retarded Citizens will offer a series of 3-day intensive seminars designed for paraprofessionals working with preschool developmentally delayed children at PARC's central office in Philadelphia. Three major areas of study will concern human development, child assessment, and parent involvement. CONTACT Philadelphia ARC, 1121 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia 19107 (215) 567-3750.

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(Reading left to right) Deputy Secretary, Wilbur E. Hobbs, Dept. of Public Welfare, Southeastern Region, Mrs. Edith Kosmin, President of Woodhaven Center Parents, and Dr. Marvin Wachman, President of Temple University, are shown at the opening of the Creative Growth Art Exhibit at Philadelphia Museum of Art.

# PLANNER

# DD

VOL. I, NO. 4

PENNSYLVANIA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
PLANNING COUNCIL

NOV/DEC 1977



Jed (left) is an 18 year old high school sophomore who is mentally retarded. Dennis (right) is a 20 year old college freshman and a post-polio quadraplegic.

## Including Me.....

"Of the eight million handicapped children in the U.S., more than half are receiving an education which is not appropriate to their needs; one million are not in school at all. Without education, they are doubly handicapped."

Thus Patricia Neal, distinguished actress, herself a victim of multiple disabling strokes, introduced **INCLUDING ME**, a one-hour videotape documentary production presented September 15 on Public TV Network stations across the country.

Timed to coincide with the initial implementation of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (P.L. 94-142) which has brought most of these children into the nation's public school systems for the first time this Fall, **INCLUDING ME** was written, directed and produced by Linda Janower, the mother of a hearing-impaired child and was presented over PBS by WQED/Pittsburgh underwritten by a grant from 3M Company.

The documentary ventures into the little understood perspective of handicapped children with six compelling portraits of those who have won the right to go to school. Danny, 16 months old, is

blind; Suzanne, 16, is deaf and is in a special program for deaf students in a regular junior high school; Jed, 18, and a high school sophomore, is retarded; Gary is 13 and enrolled in a special school for emotionally-disturbed youngsters; Lisa, 8, is severely retarded; Dennis, 20, a post-polio quadraplegic, is a college freshman planning to attend law school. These young people are shown learning and enjoying life, encouraged by concerned and understanding parents, challenged by classroom teaching, and accepted unequivocally by their peers.

In each case parent and child faced a struggle to overcome obstacles obstructing their right to an education. The film eloquently reveals the enhancements in adjustment derived by mainstreaming for the handicapped student as well as his or her peers.

### The Experts Answer

Following broadcast of **INCLUDING ME**, Pennsylvania's PBS TV stations fielded special panels to answer telephone inquiries. WITF in Hershey, whose transmission signal encompasses ten South Central Pennsylvania counties, presented a panel of experts who discussed the regional implications of P.L. 94-142 legislation. The panel was composed of: Robert and Barbara Boyer, parents of a multiply-handicapped child; Dr. Richard D. Sherr, Director of Special Education, Lancaster-Lebanon

*Continued on page 11*

THE GRAND STAND-PLANNER

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